

CAUSE NO. _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS

VS.

§
§
§
§
§

IN THE 49th DISTRICT COURT

OF

WEBB COUNTY, TEXAS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR JUROR CONDUCT

MEMBERS OF THE JURY:

By taking the oath just administered you become officers of this Court and active participants in the public administration of justice.

As jurors, you are the exclusive judges of the facts proved, of the credibility of the witnesses and of the weight to be given to the testimony, but you are bound to receive the law, including these instructions, from the Court and be governed thereby.

Regarding your conduct as jurors, you are instructed as follows:

1. Do not communicate in any way with the lawyers, the witnesses, the defendant(s) or any other person who might be connected with or interested in this case except through casual greetings. They will follow these same instructions and you will understand it when they do.
2. Do not accept from, nor give to, any of those persons any favors, however slight, such as rides, food or refreshments.
3. Do not discuss anything about this case, or even mention it to anyone, including your spouse. Do not permit anyone to mention any aspect of this case or discuss it in your hearing until you are discharged from these instructions. Inform me immediately if anyone attempts to do so.
4. You may not discuss this case among yourselves until after you have heard all of the evidence, the Court's charge has been read, the arguments of counsel have been presented and you have retired to the jury room to consider your verdict.
5. Your oath requires you to render a verdict based upon the evidence submitted to you under my rulings. All evidence must be presented in open court so that each side may question the witnesses and make proper objections. This avoids a trial based upon secret evidence. If you know of or learn anything about this case, except from the evidence admitted during the course of this trial, you should tell me about it immediately.

6. Occasionally, we have a juror who privately seeks out information about the case on trial. This is highly improper. Therefore, you shall not make any investigation about the facts of this case. Do not make personal inspections, observations, experiments or personally view locations, things or articles not produced in court. Do not let anyone else do any of these things for you.

7. A juror may have personal experiences, be aware of the experiences of others, have knowledge of matters, have expert knowledge or opinions, or may know what happened in this or some other case. Sharing any of such information with the other jurors is highly improper and a violation of these instructions.

8. Do not seek information contained in law books, dictionaries, public or private records or elsewhere, which is not admitted in evidence. At the conclusion of all the evidence, I will submit to you the Court's charge which will contain the law applicable to this case including certain definitions that you must employ during your deliberations.

9. If there are any media accounts of this trial (whether newspaper, radio, internet or television), you are not to read, listen to or view the same. And you shall not allow any other person to relate to you any media accounts related to this case.

You must abide by and follow these instructions as well as any other instructions that you may receive prior to being discharged as jurors. Texas law permits proof of the violation of any of these instructions. Accordingly, jurors and others may be called upon to testify in open court about a violation of these instructions.

You may keep these instructions and view them as the case proceeds. When the trial is in recess, the court will ask you to recall these instructions and abide by them at all times. A violation of these instructions should be reported to me or the bailiff immediately.

SIGNED AND ENTERED _____.

Respectfully submitted,

JOE LOPEZ
Judge Presiding
49TH District Court
Webb and Zapata County, Texas